

## Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Komang, Mataram, 6 August 2014

MA, Agricultural science, Sydney University, 1990 cohort; PhD, Latrobe University, 2000 cohort



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| [00:00:10] | Born in Karangasem, Eastern Bali. Didn't get in to Udayana University so studied at Mataram University, Lombok, from 1981, graduated in 1986 from an agriculture degree, reasons for choosing agriculture. Parents both teachers, brothers both teachers, parents wanted Komang to do something different. Early interest in nature.                                      | Background; childhood |
| [00:04:32] | After finishing degree, parents suggested he learn English before applying for jobs. Employed by university in 1986 and studied English at language faculty. Won BAPPENAS scholarship and went to university in Makassar (Ujung Pandang) to further English studies. Passed test to go to Australia and studied English for another six months before going to Australia. | Learning English      |

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| [00:08:09] | <p>Sydney University (1990—1992): did a prelim year in crop science before completing a Masters by research. Differences between studying in Indonesia and Australia. Joined a group research project about weed suppression. Stayed at International House to practise speaking English, appointed Senior Resident in final year, married in 1994 after returning to Indonesia for a year.</p> | Scholarship experience;<br>Living in Australia |
| [00:13:26] | <p>Research work at a university research farm near Campbelltown, caught train and school bus to the farm and later stayed at the farm by himself for two weeks, but too lonely so went back to catching the school bus.</p>  | Field work experience                          |
| [00:17:25] | <p>Independent research, counting seeds, almost two years of experiments and writing in between. Got a lot of experience — learnt to drive a tractor, spraying.</p>   | Living and working in Australia                |
| [00:19:27] | <p>Invitation to extend project to a PhD at Sydney University but University of Mataram did not allow that, returned to Indonesia and became local counterpart of Indonesia–Australia Eastern University Project until 1996. Applied through AusAID to study</p>  | Further scholarship application                |

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|            | in Australia again in 1997, interviewed by John Pariwono; won scholarship.  |                                |
| [00:23:25] | PPI, meetings at International House. Other cultures also at International House. Played volleyball. Performances of Indonesian music and dance.  | Indonesian community in Sydney |
| [00:25:37] | In 1997 followed former supervisor (Prof. Roger Cousens) to LaTrobe University, supervised by Chris Bell. Only had three-year scholarship. Went alone, leaving wife and young daughter, but returned to Indonesia to conduct research. Wife studied English and was accepted to do a Masters at La Trobe so the family returned to Australia in 1999. | Study experience; family       |
| [00:29:00] | Chris Bell left three months before end of scholarship, difficult because new supervisor requested many changes to expression and data analysis. Couldn't finish PhD in three years.  | Challenges to study            |
| [00:34:49] | To grow cauliflowers in the lowlands, managed to lower the temperature at which the cauliflower heads form.   | PhD Research project           |
| [00:37:44] | PhD submission: PhD extended for six months, finished thesis, data  | Challenges to complete study   |

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|            | analysis was criticised. Head of department facilitated a meeting with Komang and his supervisors and the problem was fixed.   |  |
| [00:40:17] | Wife studying (also ADS), three-year-old daughter went to La Trobe University childcare every day. 2001 returned to Lombok. Komang applied to be a professor in Indonesia in 2006 but the committee rejected the application. Wife decided to do a PhD at Massey University in New Zealand in 2006 (scholarship from New Zealand Aid) also and Komang was accepted as a visiting scientist there for two years, published work with Professor Peter Camm and in 2010 was accepted for professorship. | Family in Australia; international mobility      |
| [00:44:07] | Project in NZ involved using trees in pasture to reduce fertiliser run-off into waterways. Unpaid position but was given an office and access to resources and had discussions with other PhD students. Did some mentoring and paid tutoring and marking.  | Post-doctoral; Living and working in New Zealand |
| [00:48:55] | Two daughters in New Zealand, older one went to school and younger one to childcare. Now 19 and 11 years old. Older daughter studying medicine. Wife studying so Komang ran the  | Family   |

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|            | <p>household, younger daughter was in childcare three days a week.</p> <p>Returned to Lombok in 2008, went to New Zealand to collect daughters so they could start school, wife stayed in New Zealand, alone, for six months while Komang and the children were in Lombok.</p>   |                                       |
| [00:51:43] | <p>More responsibility as a professor, more research, prefers funding from overseas rather than Indonesian funding. No overseas conferences but returning to New Zealand, Massey University, next month for three months as part of the Scheme for academic mobility and exchange.</p>   | Recent career; international mobility |
| [00:56:51] | <p>New project on biochar – charcoal left after burning with low oxygen can hold more water. Research relevant to climate change – castor seeds for biofuel and plants that absorb more carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Shortage of arable land in Lombok due to increased population, therefore need research into increasing production from less land and less fertile land.</p> | Future plans                          |
| [01:02:31] | <p>Involved with Balinese community in Lombok, although seen as an outsider, not many Balinese in high positions and few Balinese students in Lombok.</p>  | Community work                        |

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| [01:05:59] | No intention of returning to live in Bali, can't afford it and disappointed in changes in Bali, problems in Bali. Family home has been given to younger brother who didn't study at university. Still visits Bali. | Future plans |
|            | END  |              |